

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of November 27 - December 1, 2006**

1. **A Year in Numbers:** The most recent homicide (11/29/2006) on Maple Avenue was the fifth of the year, a high number for the City. At this point, three of the five are closed cases with arrests made. They are well distributed both geographically, and by date, throughout the year, and we do not believe that they are in any way related to each other or to any larger crime trend or criminal cause. *(Police)*

2. **A New Fleet:** The Patrol Division received six (6) brand new 2007 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruisers. The cruisers are fully equipped and have a new distinctive color and graphics package. One vehicle will be going to one of the agency's K-9 units, and the remaining vehicles will be issued to the first six eligible officers under the agency's new Personal Patrol Vehicle program. The agency is expecting nine (9) additional vehicles in the near future which will also be used to expand the existing patrol vehicle fleet. *(Police)*

3. **Vehicle Enforcement (Wards 1, 4 & 6):** Officers conducted at least 81 traffic stops this week, 63 of which ended in written citations and one arrest. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire and Philadelphia Avenues and Piney Branch Road. *(Police)*

4. **Officers in Training:** On November 29 and 30, 2006, the department completed its 2006 fall firearms qualification courses at the Maryland Police Training Commission Firearms Range in Sykesville, Maryland. Sworn personnel completed firearms qualifications for both day and night shooting as well as annual shotgun certification. *(Police)*

5. **Auditing the Police:** On Wednesday, November 29, 2006, the department underwent a routine audit of our MILES/NCIC procedures and records. The State Police and the FBI require that these records of stolen autos, wanted persons, stolen articles and more, undergo validation over time, and that they strictly adhere to proper procedures and documentation for reliability. The agency had the lowest risk categories possible for the audit, but identified some new requirements which we need to comply. The auditors commended Ms. Gallop on the excellent package that she prepared for them, in advance of their inspection. *(Police)*

6. **Legislative Dinner:** The Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League held its annual Legislative Dinner Thursday evening. All of Takoma Park's District 20 representatives, Senator-elect Jamie Raskin, Delegate Sheila Hixson, and Delegates-elect Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur, joined Takoma Park's City Councilmembers, City Manager Barb Matthews and Community and Government Liaison Suzanne Ludlow at the event. We are looking forward to another good Legislative Session this year! *(Community & Government Liaison)*

7. **Street Restoration:** The Maple Avenue project continues. The concrete work is about 70% complete. The work is expected to continue through next week. This project is funded by a Community Development Block Grant. *(Public Works)*

8. **Leaf Collection:** The 7 week collection which started November 6 is continuing through December 22. The three November holidays and three rain days have slowed

progress somewhat, but crews are still on track with the first round completed Citywide and the second round underway. *(Public Works)*

9. Franchise Agreement: On Tuesday, November 28, the Montgomery County Council unanimously approved a Franchise Agreement with Verizon to provide cable television services. Takoma Park, as a co-franchiser, is covered by this agreement and the Council is scheduled to consider it on December 11, 2006. *(Communications Office)*

10. Newsletter RFPs: Regretfully, Sligo Computer Services, which has skillfully provided newsletter layout and production services to the City Newsletter for over 15 years, has notified staff that it will no longer be in this business. An RFP has been issued for a new designer. Also, the City received notice from Southern Maryland printing that it will be phasing out of this kind of print business, so an RFP is being issued for printer services. These both can be found on the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov. *(Communications Office)*

11. Exhibit Reception and Special Performance - December 8 (City-wide): Multi-talented Takoma Park artist, juggler, and jester, David Camero, will show his work at the Community Center during the month of December. The exhibit, Jester's Manuscripts: Decoding the Past of Juggler and Jester, can be viewed in the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries at the Community Center. A reception and special performance by Camero will be held at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Friday, December 8 at the gallery. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Open Studio Tour and Holiday Art Sale - December 16 (City-wide): The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission's first annual Open Studio Tour and Holiday Art Sale will be held on Saturday, December 16, from noon until 5:00 pm. The event, sponsored in part by ASalon, will include over 11 studios and the work of 44 local artists. Additional information will be available on the City's website December 4th. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. Regional Bus Conference: Suzanne Ludlow attended the 2006 Regional Bus Conference sponsored by Metro on Thursday, November 30. The goal was to identify best practices to improve the overall experience of using a bus in the Washington, D.C. area. John Catoe, Metro's incoming General Manager, had come from Los Angeles for the conference. Information on recommended improvements will be shared with Council and City planners. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

14. Friends of Mike Morrissey: On Friday December 8th, Friends of Mike Morrissey and organizers of the charity golf tournament established to commemorate his fondness for books and libraries, will present Ellen Robbins and representatives of the Friends of the Library with a check for \$5000 from this year's tournament. *(Library)*

15. Reminders of Library Events:

- 1) This Saturday at the Library: Spanish Story time with Laura Kleinmann at 10:00 AM;
- 2) Thursday December 7: Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks;
- 3) Friends books sale on December 9 - wonderful selection at bargain prices! - Learning Center lobby from 10 to 3;
- 4) Friends Reading Club meets this Wednesday, December 6, in the Community Center Atrium to discuss Robert Penn Warren's "All the King's Men" from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. All are invited.! *(Library)*

16. **Paradise in the City:** The Afternoon Addition welcomed Kathleen Hailer from Hawaiian Rhythms this week. She entertained the kids with traditional Hawaiian dance, taught them about what each dance move means and about Hawaiian culture. This interactive program amazed the kids as well as the staff. *(Recreation)*

17. **Programs for Seniors:** Recreation Department staff met with Sharlene Hirsch of the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington (JCA). Plans were made for continuing our partnership which provides programs for senior citizens in the area. The JCA has received several grants which will enable us to offer programs free of charge for our seniors including the popular Active for Life Series, Active for Life translated into a foreign language and a new Chronic Disease Self Management Program. The programs will be offered in the community center beginning in April. More details to follow. *(Recreation)*

18. **Partnering with the County:** The Recreation Director was pleased to welcome two members of Montgomery County Recreation Department, Robin Riley and Jeffrey Bourne, with a tour of the Community Center and a visit to the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. Discussions were geared toward how we can work better together in the future and what types of partnerships we might achieve. *(Recreation)*